

CLAIMS:

1. An organic EL element comprising an anode, a cathode, and a light-emitting organic EL layer sandwiched between said anode and said cathode;

wherein said organic EL layer comprises a leak prevention layer that takes on a high resistance when its temperature is increased.

2. The organic EL element according to claim 1, wherein said leak prevention layer has hole transport abilities, and transports holes from the anode side to the cathode side.

3. The organic EL element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said leak prevention layer has electron transport abilities, and transports electrons from said cathode side to said anode side.

4. The organic EL element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said leak prevention layer is arranged in contact with said anode.

5. The organic EL element according to claim 1 or 3, wherein said leak prevention layer is arranged in contact with said cathode.

6. The organic EL element according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said leak prevention layer takes on a high resistance at temperatures of at least 120°C.

7. The organic EL element according to claim 6, wherein said leak prevention layer takes on a high resistance at temperatures of 120 to 400°C.

8. The organic EL element according to claim 7, wherein said leak prevention layer takes on a high

resistance at temperatures of 200 to 300°C.

9. The organic EL element according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein, when taking on a high resistance, the specific resistance of said leak prevention layer increases at least by a factor of 10.

10. The organic EL element according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein, when taking on a high resistance, the specific resistance of said leak prevention layer becomes at least  $10^{11}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ .

11. The organic EL element according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein said leak prevention layer is made of a conductive polymer that is doped with an acid.

12. The organic EL element according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein said leak prevention layer is made by a wet film formation process or a vapor-phase film formation process.